

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 7, and 17-21 were pending when last examined. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 is objected to because of alleged informalities. According to the Examiner:

[I]t is unclear whether “a plurality of entries” refers to multiple words in the counter or refers to multiple bits in the counter. For the purpose of examination, the claim language shall be interpreted as meaning multiple bits. Also with respect to claim 2, it is unclear whether “affecting the input of entries” indicates more limitations than altering the counter value.

Applicants respectfully traverse. The language of claim 2 is not unclear. One of ordinary skill in the art understands what is meant by “a plurality of entries” and “affecting the input of entries.” The Examiner’s assertion that “plurality of entries” must refer to either multiple words or multiple bits is misplaced. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Corsi (US 5,912,551). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s assertion that various elements in the figures of Corsi correspond to the limitations of claim 2. For example, the Examiner argues that elements 22, 20, and 28 of Figure 1 in Corsi correspond to the duty cycle generator, digital counter, and first comparator of claim 2, but then asserts that *all* of Figure 1 in Corsi (which is a boost mode controller with start up circuit) corresponds to the algorithm generator of claim 2. This is simply wrong. In claim 2, the “algorithm generator” is a distinct and

separate element from the “duty cycle generator,” “digital counter,” and “first comparator.” As such, the entire circuit of Figure 1 in Corsi--which includes all of the other elements that the Examiner asserts correspond to the “duty cycle generator,” “digital counter,” and “first comparator” of claim 2--cannot be the “algorithm generator.” Thus, Corsi does not disclose any separate “algorithm generator” as recited in claim 2. The Examiner’s rejection uses the same elements of Corsi for multiple limitations in claim 2. Furthermore, Corsi does not disclose anything which produces “an algorithm that determines the rate of change for modifying the duty cycle.” Nothing in the boost mode controller with start up circuit of Figure 1 of Corsi operates or functions to determine the “rate of change for modifying the duty cycle” as required by claim 2. The Examiner’s statement in the Office Action that for the circuit of Figure 1 of Corsi “duty cycle changed at rate in response to load” is unclear. Corsi merely discloses changing the duty cycle in response to load. But this is simply not the same as determining the *rate of change* for modifying the duty cycle. Corsi does not disclose anything like a rate of change. Accordingly, claim 2 is not anticipated by Corsi.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Corsi be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 7 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellers (US 5,189,601). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner’s rejection of claim 2 using Sellers suffers from the same problem as the rejection of the claim using Corsi. The Examiner cannot point to distinct and separate elements of the Sellers as being the “duty cycle generator,” “first comparator,” and “algorithm generator” recited in Applicants’ claim 2. Instead, for example, the Examiner asserts that elements 46, 44 of Fig. 2 of Sellers are the “duty cycle generator” of claim 2 while element 21 (which contains elements 46, 44) is the “algorithm generator.” The Examiner essentially picks and chooses elements of the disclosure of Sellers and then combines them in a way that is completely contrary to the teachings of the reference. Moreover, Sellers does not disclose anything which produces “an algorithm that determines

the rate of change for modifying the duty cycle” as recited in claim 2. Nothing in the element 21 (which is a current mode controller) of Sellers operates or functions to determine the “rate of change for modifying the duty cycle” as required by claim 2. The Examiner’s statement in the Office Action that for the current mode controller 21 of Sellers “duty cycle changed at rate in response to load” is not only unclear, but Sellers simply not disclose determining the *rate of change* for modifying the duty cycle. Accordingly, claim 2 is not anticipated by Sellers.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellers be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claim 3 depends from claim 2 and include further limitations, the Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of this dependent claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellers also be withdrawn.

Applicants also disagree with the Examiner’s assertion that Sellers discloses all of the limitations of claim 7. Claim 7 recites *inter alia*, “changing the frequency of alteration of the duty cycle.” Regarding Sellers, the Examiner states, “if a change in the load is detected (Fig. 4 27’), changing the frequency (Fig. initiate switching) of alteration of the duty cycle.” But simply initiating switching in Sellers is not the same as “changing the frequency of alteration of the duty cycle” as recited in claim 7. Sellers does not disclose any “frequency of alteration of the duty cycle,” much less changing such frequency “if a change in the load is detected.” Thus, Sellers does not anticipate claim 7.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellers be withdrawn.

Immediately following the Examiner’s argument regarding the rejection of claim 7 as being anticipated by Sellers, the Examiner states the following:

With respect to Claim 17, Duffy discloses the method of claim 7 wherein monitoring the load (Fig. 1 Is) comprises usage of two (Fig. 44 27'33') or more comparators.

With respect to Claim 18, Duffy discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the two (Fig. 4 27',33') or more comparators each have a different reference (Fig. 4 Vref and second reference voltage divided +V).

With respect to Claims 19-21, Duffy discloses a voltage converter. See claims 7 and 17-18 for item matching.

Office Action, p. 5.

Applicants assume that in the above-quoted passage the Examiner intended to argue that Sellers, not "Duffy," discloses such limitations because the Examiner indicated on page 3 of the Office Action that claims "17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellers." Nonetheless, because claims 17 and 18 depends from claim 7 and include further limitations, the Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellers also be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claim 19 has limitations which are not disclosed in Sellers. In particular, claim 19 recites *inter alia*, "monitor circuitry for monitoring the load, wherein the monitor circuitry causes a change in the frequency of altering the duty cycle; wherein if the load increases, the frequency of altering is increased, thereby minimizing a dip in the output voltage." As discussed above, Sellers does not disclose any "frequency of altering the duty cycle," much less "monitor circuitry [which] causes a change in the frequency of altering the duty cycle" and "wherein if the load increases, the frequency of altering is increased." Thus, claim 19 is not anticipated by Sellers.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellers be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19 and include further limitations,

the Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellers also be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooks (US 6,356,063). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that Brooks discloses all of the limitations of claim 7. Claim 7 recites *inter alia*, "changing the frequency of alteration of the duty cycle." Regarding Brooks, the Examiner states, "if a change in the load is detected (Fig. 3 300 detects output voltage exceeds window), changing the frequency (Fig. 3 INJ modifies Vc changing the frequency) of alteration of the duty cycle." But simply modifying Vc in Brooks is not the same as "changing the frequency of alteration of the duty cycle" as recited in claim 7. Brooks does not disclose any "frequency of alteration of the duty cycle," much less changing such frequency "if a change in the load is detected." Thus, Brooks does not anticipate claim 7.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooks be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claims 17 and 18 depends from claim 7 and include further limitations, the Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooks also be withdrawn.

Also, claim 19 has limitations which are not disclosed in Brooks. In particular, claim 19 recites *inter alia*, "monitor circuitry for monitoring the load, wherein the monitor circuitry causes a change in the frequency of altering the duty cycle; wherein if the load increases, the frequency of altering is increased, thereby minimizing a dip in the output voltage." As discussed above, Brooks does not disclose any "frequency of altering the duty cycle," much less "monitor circuitry [which] causes a change in the frequency of altering the duty cycle" and "wherein if the load increases, the frequency of altering is increased." Thus, claim 19 is not anticipated by Brooks.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooks be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19 and include further limitations, the Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooks also be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Duffy (US 2002/0171985). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Duffy does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 7. Claim 7 recites *inter alia*, "changing the frequency of alteration of the duty cycle." Regarding Duffy, the Examiner states, "if a change in the load is detected (Fig. 9 910 comparator detects outside of window), changing the frequency (Fig. 14 period extended after load changes at 1450) of alteration of the duty cycle." But simply extending period in response to load changes in Duffy is not the same as "changing the frequency of alteration of the duty cycle" as recited in claim 7. Duffy does not disclose any "frequency of alteration of the duty cycle," much less changing such frequency "if a change in the load is detected." Thus, Duffy does not anticipate claim 7.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Duffy be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claims 17 and 18 depends from claim 7 and include further limitations, the Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Duffy also be withdrawn.

Similarly, claim 19 has limitations which are not disclosed in Duffy. In particular, claim 19 recites *inter alia*, "monitor circuitry for monitoring the load, wherein the monitor circuitry causes a change in the frequency of altering the duty cycle; wherein if the load increases, the frequency of altering is increased, thereby minimizing a dip in the output voltage." As discussed above, Duffy does not disclose any "frequency of altering the duty cycle," much less "monitor circuitry [which] causes a change in the frequency of altering the

duty cycle” and “wherein if the load increases, the frequency of altering is increased.” Thus, claim 19 is not anticipated by Duffy.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Duffy be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19 and include further limitations, the Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Duffy also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7428.

Certificate of Mailing

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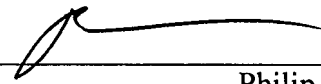
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